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SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,H 02,SAH 03,SAL 01,P 04,
INR 07,EUR 25,IO 21,CU 04,AID 30,RSR 01,/172 W

C R 22 330Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5108
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3877
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2238
AMCONSUL DANANG 770
CINCPAC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: AUGUST 22 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE IN TAY NINH

1. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNERS CONTINUED SPEAKING TOUR WITH MORNING VISIT TO TAY NINH AUGUST 22. PROGRAM WENT OFF WELL. SPEECHES WERE HELD AT CITY SPORTS FIELD. ALSO SITE OF III CORPS YOUTH CONFERENCE NOW IN PREGRESS. YOUTH GROUPS, REPORTEDLY PREPARED TO HEAR THIEU TOMORROW, IGNORED CANDIDATES.

2. CANDIDATES ARRIVED VIA AIR VIET-NAM CHARTER FLIGHT

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AT MILITARY FIELD SHORTLY AFTER 9:00 AM. ENTOURAGE THEN DROVE TO SPORTS FIELD IN JEEP BELONGING TO PROVINCIAL

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GOVERNMENT. PROVINCE CHIEF LT. COLONEL HO DUC TRUNG ESCORTED CANDIDATES TO THE PLATFORM AND INTRODUCED THEM AT 9:30 AM. PLATFORM AND SPEAKER SYSTEM WERE WELL ARRANGED. CROWN PRESENT NUMBERED APPROXIMATELY 3,500, ESTIMATED AS FOLLOWS: 400 CITY RESIDENTS INCLUDING ABOUT 200 CIVIL SERVANTS; 100 SOLDIERS WITH FEW IF ANY FIELD GRADE OFFICERS PRESENT; AND 3,000 PEOPLE INCLUDING MANY VILLAGERS FROM OUTLYING AREAS IN PHUOC NINH AND PHU KHUONG DISTRICTS. THE LATTER TRAVELED TO TAY NINH IN NINETEEN VIETNAMESE MILITARY TRUCKS ASSIGNED TO THE JOB. DISTRICT PEOPLE SEEMED DISAPPOINTED THAT NEITHER THIEU NOR KY WERE PRESENT SINCE IT HAD BEEN RUMORED THEY WOULD ATTEND.

3. AFTER USUAL WELCOMING REMARKS, COLONEL TRUNG RETIRED FROM SCENE, LEAVING TAY NINH'S DEPUTY CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION AS OFFICIAL PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE. LOTS WERE DRAWN FOR SPEAKERS AND THIEU-KY SLATE WAS FIRST TO SPEAK. LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE R FOR THIEU-KY, A MR. DIEP, THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, APOLOGIZED FOR ABSENCE OF THIEU AND KY AND FORFEITED HIS

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 3734 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALLOTTED 15 MINUTES. DIEP GAVE USUAL EXCUSE THAT THIEU AND KY WERE TOO BUSY WITH GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS TO MAKE THE TRIP. CROWN GAVE DIEP POLITE APPLAUSE.

4. NEXT SPEAKERS WERE HIEP AND TRUYEN. HIEP SAT AT TABLE BEHIND MICROPHONE AND READ HIS SPEECH. ELABORATING A LITTLE ON GENERALIZED PLATFORM, HIEP EMPHASIZED PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND SOCIAL REFORM. TRUYEN THEN SPOKE AND REFERRED TO HIS EXPERIENCE OF EXILE IN MADAGASCAR AND CAO DAI LEADERS IN 1941. (ALMOST ALL CANDIDATES ALLUDED TO THEIR SYMPATHY WITH CAO DAI BUT CROWD DID NOT RESPOND VERY MUCH.) AT FINISH HIEP AND TRUYEN RECEIVED POLITE APPLAUSE.

5. THIRD SLATE TO SPEAK WAS SUU-DAN. CROWD'S INTEREST INCREASED. SUU SPOKE STANDING. HE REVIEWED HIS REVOLUTIONARY BACKGROUND. DAN THEN TOOK MICROPHONE AND THANKED DISTRICT CHIEFS FOR TURNING T GOOD CROWD. HE WENT ON TO REPEAT SAME GENERAL ECONO ROGRAM OUTLINED IN

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PREVIOUS SPEECHES. DAN SIDE-STEPPED ANSWER TO QUESTION ON HOW TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN VIET-NAM BY SAYING ANSWER WOULD COME AFTER SUU-DAN ELECTION VICTORY. SECOND AND LAST QUESTION DEMANDED WHY SHOULD VIETNAMESE DEAL WITH AMERICA.

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WHICH ALWAYS HESITATES BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE IN VIET-NAM. DAN RESPONDED WITH COMPARISON TO SLICE OF MEAT, I.E., VIETNAMESE MUST THROW AWAY THE BAD PART AND KEEP THE GOOD THINGS AMERICANS DO IN VIET-NAM. CROWD APPLAUDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY AT END OF SUU-DAN PRESENTATION.

6. FOURTH TO SPEAK WAS UNONG. HIS RUNNING-MATE TRUYEN WAS ABSENT. AT BEGINNING OF HUONG'S SPEECH CROWD'S ATTENTION WANDERED, BUT BY CLOSE, PEOPLE WERE LISTENING INTENTLY. HUONG NOTED HIS 8 YEARS AS TAY NING RESIDENT AND SAID HE DID NOT NEED TO EXPLAIN HIS PROGRAM TO THE PEOPLE OF TAY NINH WHO KNEW IT ALREADY. HUONG SAID HE RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR A CONTINUING STRONG MILITARY ROLE IN THE RELATIVELY INSECURE PROVINCE OF TAY NINH. HE SAID THE PEOPLE MUST BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE. HE CRITICIZED PRIME MINISTER KY FOR NOT INSTITUTING REAL DEMOCRACY. IN QUESTION PERIOD, HUONG SAID THAT IF HE WERE ELECTED THE MILITARY COULD NOT AGAIN OUST HIM AS IN 1965, BECAUSE NOW THE PEOPLE WOULD BACK HIM. CROWD GAVE HIM GOOD APPLAUSE. AFTER SPEECH HUONG LEFT THE SPORTSFIELD IN COMPANY OF HIS SON, A JUSPAO EMPLOYEE, APPARENTLY TO DO SOME LOCAL POLITICKING WITH CAO DAI LEADERS. AN HOUR LATER, HE RETURNED TO THE FIELD.

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7. NEXT SLATE TO SPEAK WAS QUAT-CHAN TICKET. RUNNING-MATE CHAN WAS ABSENT DUE TO ILLNESS AND QUAT DELIVERED HUM-DRUM SPEECH. AT THIS POINT A FEW OF THE CROWD BEGAN TO DRIFT AWAY.

8. SIXTH SPEAKER WAS HA THI[illegible]Y. VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DINH FAILED TO [illegible]R AND HIS ABSENCE WAS NOT

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EXPLAINED. ASSEMBLY DEPUTY NGUYEN VAN NGAI INTRODUCED KY, WHO THEN READ BRIEF TEXT. HE CITED HIS RECORD AND OPENED FLOOR TO QUESTIONS. IN ANSWER TO QUERY WHETHER HE AGREED WITH NGUYEN CAO KY'S RECENT RADIO APPEAL FOR MORE GENTLEMANLY DIALOGUE AMONG CANDIDATES, KY REPLIED THE PRIME MINISTER HAD INSULTED OLDER CANDIDATES WHO DESERVE MORE RESPECT. CROWD LED BY SEVERAL OF HA THUC KY'S FOLLERS ROUNDLY APPLAUDED THIS REMARK. THE CROWD RESPONDED WELL TO KY, BUT TWO LOW-FLYING VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE PLANES WHO PUT ON SMALL SHOW MAKING SEVERAL LOW PASSES AND ENGAGING IN SOME ACROBATICS, DISTRACTED EVERYONE'S ATTENTION. SOME OF THE CROWD SUGGESTED PLANES WERE MEANT TO SABOTAGE KY'S SPEECH, BUT KY REMAINED CALM. AT FINISH KY LIKE HUONG LEFT, PERHAPS ALSO TO CAMPAIGN PRIVATELY. HE RETURNED IN TIME FOR DEPARTURE.

9. THE NEXT TWO SLATES, KHANH-DONG AND LY-DUONG,

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PRESENTED LITTLE BUT GENERALIZATIONS AND REHASH OF PAST RECORDS. CROWD RESPONSE WAS SLIGHT. KHANH'S VICE PRESIDENTIAL MATE WAS NOT PRESENT.

10. THE TENTH TO SPEAK WAS DZU-CHIEU TICKET. CROWD REACTION TO DZU WAS MOST ENTHUSIASTIC OF ALL. EARLIER SEVERAL DZU POSTERS HAD BEEN CARRIED AROUND THROUGH THE CROWD BY CHILDREN, AND SOME EXCITEMENT RAN THROUGH AUDIENCE WHEN DZU FINALLY HAD HIS CHANGE TO SPEAK. REPEATING "PEACE" PLATFORM HE SHARPLY ATTACKED THIEU'S KY'S "BLINDNESS" TO VIETNAMESE DESIRE FOR PEACE. HE ALSO SCORED THE POLICE AND THEIR SEARCH FOR YOUTHFUL DRAFT DODGERS. ANYONE WHO STEALS OUR YOUTH IN THIS SHAMEFUL WAY DOES NOT WANT PEACE, DZU SAID. CROWD GAVE TICKET BEST HAND OF DAY. AFTER SPEAKING, DZU AND CHIEU DESCENDED THE ROSTRUM AND SHOOK HANDS WITH LISTENERS. CROWD, HAVING HEARD FAVORITES SUU, HUONG, AND DZU, THEN BEGAN EXODUS TO TRUCKS.

11. LAST SLATE WAS CO-SINH NH SPOKE AS CO DED NOT ATTEND DUE TO "PERSONAL" RE 3. LIKE LY AND KHANH, SINH RECEIVED LITTLE RESPONSE.
BUNKER

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